

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
formulating a discovery information query at a console or at one or more network devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more network device, wherein the discovery information query is initiated automatically or by a user;
sending the discovery information query to a search engine to facilitate searching of discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices;
receiving ~~a~~ the discovery information query;
retrieving one or more ~~XML~~ files ~~stored on~~ from the one or more network devices, each ~~XML~~ file containing discovery information of ~~the a~~ a network device on which the file is stored; and
searching the discovery information in the ~~XML~~ one or more files based on the ~~received~~ discovery information query.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the searching of the discovery information comprises searching-retrieving via an XML-based the search engine the discovery information in the XML-one or more files based on the discovery information query, wherein the search engine includes an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine, and the one or more files include one or more XML-based files.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising displaying the manipulated discovery information.
5. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium ~~that provides~~ having stored thereon data representing sets of instructions, which, when executed by a machine, cause ~~said the~~ machine to ~~perform operations comprising:~~ formulate a discovery information query at a console or at one or more network devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more network devices, wherein the discovery information query is initiated automatically or by a user; send the discovery information query to a search engine to facilitate searching of discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices; ~~receiving a~~ receive the discovery information query; ~~retrieving~~ retrieve one or more ~~extensible markup language (XML)~~ files ~~stored on~~ from the one or more network devices, each XML-file containing discovery information of ~~the a~~ network device on which the file is stored; and ~~searching~~ search the discovery information in the ~~XML~~ one or more files based on the ~~received~~ discovery information query.
6. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the searching of the discovery information comprises ~~searching~~ retrieving via ~~a the~~ search engine the discovery information in the ~~XML~~ one or more files based on the discovery information query, wherein the search engine includes an XML-based search engine, and the one or more files include one or more XML-based files.

7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim ~~7~~ 6, ~~further comprising wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further causes the machine to manipulating-manipulate~~ the retrieved discovery information.
9. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 8, ~~further comprising wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to displaying-display~~ the manipulated discovery information.

Claims 10-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
- ~~a plurality of one or more~~ network devices, each network device ~~including having~~ stored thereon an extensible markup language (XML) a file that contains containing discovery information; and
- a search engine to search the discovery information of ~~the XML~~ one or more files stored on the one or more network devices based on a ~~received~~ discovery information query, wherein the discovery information query is formulated at a console or at the one or more network devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more network devices, wherein the discover information query is initiated automatically or by a user, and the discovery information query is sent to the search engine to facilitate the searching of the discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the search engine is comprises an XML-based search engine, and the one or more files comprise one or more XML-based files.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~at least one of the~~ one or more network devices is comprise one or more of the following: a router, a switch, a server, a printer, and a computer.

Claims 18-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~at least one of the~~ one or more network devices manages other network devices.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the discovery information ~~in the XML files includes~~ comprises one or more of the following: data describing capabilities of the one or more network devices, data describing locations of the one or more network devices, and data describing types of the one or more network devices.

Claims 24-25 (Cancelled)